

The Farmington Times.

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FARMINGTON, ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1916.

NO. 3.

PLAN YOUR GIFTS NOW BEFORE THE BUSY SPRING SEASON

NOVELTIES in stamped linens and other fabrics—

For BRIDES:

Luncheon Sets
Piano Scarfs
Towels
Library Sets
Knife, Fork and
Spoon Cases

For GRADUATES:

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Telephone Index
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Collar Boxes
Shirt Cases

For BOTH: Traveling Cases, Gown Cases, Corset Bags, Pillows and a variety of other appropriate articles, together with flosses, padding cotton, etc.

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GLARING DISCREPANCIES IN REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENTS

The problem of equitable assessment for the purposes of taxation is one with which our legislative bodies have long wrestled, and yet no satisfactory solution has been reached. The condition is still one wherein the smaller property holders oftener than otherwise are made to pay relatively a larger proportion of the taxes. Not only is it true that the wealthy and large investor may evade taxation on much of his personal property in the shape of bonds, mortgages, notes, stocks, etc., but his large estate and regal residence, with its extensive park, racing grounds and hunting preserves, which compare favorably in munificence with the castles and manors of the old world, are rarely rated by the assessor in ratio with smaller properties. The average munificence of such an estate is so imposing that it staggers the assessor's judgment when he comes to place a valuation on it, and because of its regal largeness he is disposed to be too moderate in fixing a taxing value lest he impose too enormous a tax on the owner.

Not so, however, when he comes to assess a more modest property; even if he should overvalue it somewhat the amount of taxes that would accrue from such valuation is so small in proportion to the amount the owner of the vaster estate must pay, that the assessor's judgment is unwittingly perhaps biased in favor of the latter; and the valuation fixed by the assessor is seldom disturbed by boards of equalization.

We have been led into these reflections by what has long been recognized as inequitable in the assessment of the lead companies' property in St. Francois county, and which has frequently been discussed in a cursory manner in the Times and other local papers. In this county, and it is doubtless true of every county in the State, the custom has been to assess

real estate at about one-third or a little more of its estimated value. If this rule were applied to our lead companies there would be a considerable increase in the revenue of the county. These companies have been, as long as we can remember, assessed at a much less rate than farm and other real property.

Take the St. Joseph Lead Company, it being the oldest, for example. According to its own statement or balance sheet for the calendar year ending December 31, 1914, the value of its land holdings alone in this county is \$6,732,514.16. And yet this company is assessed on all its lands together with its mills, equipment, houses and other taxable property, only \$1,452,830. This is but a little more than one-sixth the value that the company places on its lands, while every farm and household in the county is assessed at one-third or more of its estimated value—double that of the lead company's lands with all its other taxable property thrown in. Isn't that out of all proportion? Is it just to other taxpayers?

But to go a little further: Besides the company's \$6,732,514.13 of valuable lead land, it has according to its own statement and valuation, separate and apart from its lands, \$4,064,509.33 in buildings and equipment, a total of assessable property of \$10,797,023.49. If this were all assessed in proportion to the assessments of farm lands, the company's assessment would be about \$3,599,027, whereas it is only \$1,452,830, or about one-eighth the valuation placed on it by the company itself, while the farmer or householder pays taxes on one-third of the estimated value of his property. Here the inequality is flagrantly transparent.

The assessments for taxation purposes on the property of the Doe Run and other lead companies are about in proportion to that of the St. Joseph Lead Company. We may take occasion to refer to these and other matters along this line in future articles.

MISSOURI-COLORADO ROMANCE

Albert J. Zwart of Kansas City, formerly of this place, and Mrs. Maude W. Bunting of Grand Junction, Colorado, are to be married in about three weeks—the exact date is not given—at the Cathedral in Denver, Colorado. There is quite a little romance associated with this marriage, which may prove interesting to Mr. Zwart's host of friends here and to the former friends of Mrs. Bunting at Ironton. What follows is from the Denver Post:

"A romance which started at least thirty years ago back in the little town of Ironton, Mo., will reach a pretty climax within the next three weeks when Mrs. Maude W. Bunting, owner of the Grand Junction Sentinel, and widow of I. N. Bunting, for twenty years editor of that paper, becomes the bride of Albert J. Zwart of Kansas City and Grand Junction, president of the Redlands Irrigating and Power Company, and representative of the Henry L. Doherty interests of the Grand Valley.

"Mrs. Bunting and Albert Zwart were schoolyard sweethearts, back in the days of ribboned 'pig-tails' and knee breeches, and young Zwart made certain vows and declarations relative to matrimony. But time sped on and it looked as though the Zwart vows were mere boyish boasts. He married another girl and she married another man, a newspaper man who was destined to become a power in Western Colorado. The old sweethearts were still friends and often met in their homes.

"Five years ago Mr. Bunting died. Two years later Mrs. Zwart (who was Miss Clara Parkhurst of Farmington) succumbed to prolonged illness. And next month (February) the widow and widower will be married."

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Zwart will visit friends in Farmington for a few days in March, and spend several months in an extended tour of the South and East. They will then make their home at Kansas City, and will also maintain a residence at Grand Junction, Colorado, where they will spend several months of each year.

W. C. Eaves County Recorder Passes Away

W. C. Eaves, Recorder of Deeds of St. Francois County, died at his home in Farmington last Tuesday, February 1, 1916, after a lingering illness of some months. Perhaps no man is more universally known in the county or more generally loved by those who knew him, men, women and children, than was "Daddy Eaves," as he was affectionately called. He possessed that genial fellowship and kindness of heart that attracted to him all who came within the sphere of his influence, and the writer never heard him utter an unkind word about any one and perhaps an ungenerous thought of any one never clouded his mind. His death is universally regretted, and his cheerful smile and kindly greetings will be missed by scores of our people.

Mr. Eaves was born in Dent county, Missouri, April 22, 1853, and was therefore in the sixty-third year of his age. For some months prior to his death he suffered with asthma and kidney trouble, and during the past summer took a trip of several weeks West in the hope of improving his condition. He came back some better of the asthma and it was hoped that the improvement might prove permanent, but other complications set in, and for some weeks past he had been confined to his home. He was twice married, his second wife surviving him. He was the father of six children, five of whom are living, together with twenty-two grandchildren. Several years ago he united with the Baptist Church at Desloge, and his walk in life was guided by a gentle Christian faith and good will for his fellowman.

He was a 32d degree Mason and was associated with a number of lodges and benevolent organizations, among them the A. F. & A. M., the I. O. O. F., the K. of P., the M. W. A., the Yeomans and others. In 1910 he was elected Recorder of Deeds of St. Francois county on the Republican ticket, and re-elected to the same office in 1914, a position which he has faithfully filled.

The funeral took place from the First Baptist Church yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, Rev. O. H. L. Cunningham, the pastor, conducting the religious services, and he was laid at rest in the Masonic cemetery with the beautiful rites of the Masonic order.

Requiescat in pace.

Improve Sanitary Conditions

Since the recent suggestion in the Times, as to Farmington's need of improved sanitary conditions, we have heard many remarks indicating that many of the citizens of this city are at least taking serious thought of this most important matter. It is but natural that Farmington's citizenship should have become apparently more or less careless about improving its sanitary condition, as the city is so healthfully located, and has always been immune to epidemics of all kinds.

But this city is constantly growing, and as population increases so does the need for better sewerage. All such a citizenship as this needs is to be aroused to its apparent needs, and the ultimate result will be for this city's good. The Times, therefore, feels content that it has aroused them from their false sense of security, and we now feel confident that plans will be long begun to formulate for the building of just such a sewerage system in Farmington as will protect the health and life of this community. This is the one thing needed to make this little city in every respect ideal as a residence place.

Residence Partly Destroyed by Fire

About midnight Wednesday the fire alarm whistle awakened the quiet of the night. The fire proved to be at the residence of A. C. Devan, on Potosi street. Prompt arrival of the Fire Laddies with their hose and good work saved the main part of the building, but the one-story ell, in which was the kitchen and where the fire started, was burned. The front part of the building, a two-story structure, was saved by dint of hard work, only the roof being damaged.

The Merging of Carleton-Marvin Impracticable

Says Rev. Dr. Crissman—Would Build \$1,000,000 Methodist University in St. Louis.

A \$1,000,000 Methodist university in St. Louis as the solution of the educational problem of Missouri's Methodism, North and South, is advocated by Rev. Dr. B. F. Crissman, district superintendent of the St. Louis district, says the Republic.

Dr. Crissman's advocacy followed his announcement that the proposed union between Marvin College at Fredericktown, Mo., and Carleton College at Farmington, Mo., had been abandoned because of financial obligations.

For more than a year efforts had been made to unite the two institutions representing the two dominant Methodisms.

Marvin is a Southern Missouri institution, while Carleton is operated by the Methodist Episcopal Church. Dr. Crissman gave out the following statement yesterday:

"I consulted with Dr. H. P. Crowe, presiding elder in Farmington, and Dr. W. C. Macurdy, President of Carleton. I also consulted with members of the special commission on merging the two institutions.

"It was agreed that it was impracticable to unite the schools at this time. Financial difficulties make the union impracticable.

"The two denominations throughout the territory served by these schools are in greater harmony and close fellowship than ever before."

Dr. Crissman, when asked what would be the best solution of the educational problem of the two Methodisms in Missouri, said:

"My own personal opinion is that such a solution lies in the two great churches to unite in establishing a truly great school in St. Louis. Such a school should have at least a million dollars with which to begin."

"The two churches are certain to be reunited soon, and it would be most fitting that the Methodists of Missouri should have a great school in Missouri's greatest city."

WORDS OF COMMENDATION

Judge Jerre S. Gossom of Caruthersville is renewing his subscription to The Times, writes us:

"How long do you think you will maintain the paper up to its present standard? I have been a subscriber of The Times for many years, but after Theo. D. Fisher severed his connection with it, the paper has not been kept up to the high standard formerly maintained by Mr. Fisher. Lately it has been somewhat improved, and I trust you may be able to get it back to itself again, to-wit, a genuine Democratic paper, clean in politics and advocating the doctrine of true democracy."

We thank the Judge for the compliment implied in his question, and answer by saying that it is our intention and hope to make The Times better than it ever was, even under the old-time management of Mr. Fisher. If determined effort and conscientious work count for anything we are going to do that very thing. As to politics, the present manager is a Democrat from away back, as other papers he has published in the State will attest, and we expect to continue to "hew straight to the line."

Again we thank the Judge for his good words, which will act as a sort of spur to us to do our very best; and as we have heard somewhat of the Judge through his old friends here, we want to congratulate him on the report that many of his newer friends down in the Twenty-eighth Judicial Circuit are urging him to step up higher and occupy the bench of that circuit.

Big Blow at Annapolis

A small hurricane has visited this section since I last wrote you. Fourteen trees near town were turned up, the roof was blown off of Gus Funk's hay barn, north of the school house, Mr. Culley's porch was blown away, went over Nath Sutton's farm and took the roof off his house; lots of fencing blown down around town, and the roof taken off W. H. Dunn's blacksmith shop, and part of the roof taken from John T. Webb's brewery and feed store. Fortunately no one was hurt—Ironton Register, Annapolis correspondent.

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